

R430-90-5, R430-50-5. CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE.

Licensed Family 90-5:

- (1) The licensee shall ensure that a clean and sanitary environment is maintained.

Residential Certificate 50-5:

- (1) The certificate holder shall ensure that a clean and sanitary environment is maintained.

Rationale / Explanation

A clean and sanitary environment helps to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. This includes walls, floors, furniture, fixtures, and equipment. Children will touch any surface they can reach, including floors, which means that all surfaces in a child care facility can become contaminated and spread infectious disease agents. Bacterial cultures of surfaces in child care centers have shown fecal contamination. Regular and thorough cleaning of rooms prevents the spread of diseases. Many communicable diseases can be prevented through appropriate hygiene and sanitation procedures. CFOC, pg. 104 Standard 3.028

Disease-causing agents may be spread in a variety of ways, such as by coughing, sneezing, direct skin-to-skin contact, or by touching a contaminated object or surface. Respiratory tract secretions that contain viruses which contaminate surfaces remain infectious for variable periods of time, and infections have been spread by touching articles and surfaces contaminated with infectious respiratory secretions. CFOC, pg. 104 Standard 3.028

Developing a cleaning schedule helps to ensure that the home is properly cleaned on a regular basis. CFOC, pg. 273 Standard 5.228

It is also important to keep all areas and equipment used for the storage, preparation, and service of food clean and sanitary. Outbreaks of foodborne illness have occurred in child care settings. Many of these can be prevented through appropriate cleaning and sanitizing. CFOC, pg. 178 Standard 4.061

It is recommended, though not required by rule, that sponges not be used for cleaning and sanitizing. This is because sponges harbor bacteria and are difficult to completely clean and sanitize in between cleaning different surfaces. CFOC, pg. 178 Standard 4.061

Cracked or porous surfaces cannot be kept clean and sanitary, because they trap organic materials in which microorganisms can grow. Repairs with duct tape and other similar materials add surfaces that also trap organic materials. CFOC, pg. 171 Standard 4.045; pgs. 218-219 Standard 5.079

Torn furniture with stuffing or foam exposed must be repaired, because it cannot be kept clean and sanitary. CFOC, pg. 107-108 Standard 3.034

Many allergic children have allergies to dust mites, which are microscopic insects that ingest the tiny particles of skin that people shed normally every day. Dust mites live in carpeting and fabric, but can be killed by frequent washing and drying in a heated dryer. CFOC, pgs. 107-108 Standard 3.034

Enforcement

A certain amount of mess is normal when caring for active children. In enforcing this rule, licensors will need to distinguish between messes made today (as the consequence of an activity today), and a chronic buildup of dirt, soil, food, etc. over time where disease-causing bacteria can grow.

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This rule is cited only when there is no other more specific rule that applies to the cleanliness of the environment.

Level 3B Noncompliance: *If there are any of the following:*

- *rotting food or a buildup of food on a surface*
- *a slippery spill on a floor*
- *mold growing*
- *a visible buildup of dirt, soil, grime, etc. that germs could grow in*
- *a buildup of cobwebs, bugs, or carpets in need of cleaning, when there is a child with asthma or another known respiratory condition enrolled in the group.*

Level 3D Noncompliance: *If there are any of the following:*

- *a buildup of cobwebs, bugs, or carpets in need of cleaning, but there is no child with asthma or another known respiratory condition enrolled in the group.*
- *flooring or furniture that is damaged such that it cannot be effectively cleaned and sanitized.*

Licensed Family 90-5:

- (2) The licensee shall take safe and effective measures to prevent and eliminate the presence of insects, rodents, and other vermin.**

Residential Certificate 50-5:

- (2) The certificate holder shall take safe and effective measures to prevent and eliminate the presence of insects, rodents, and other vermin.**

Rationale / Explanation

Insects, rodents, and vermin carry disease, and may also sting or bite children. The purpose of this rule is to reduce these potential hazards to children. CFOC, pg. 193 Standard 5.015; pg. 214 Standard 5.070

Some insect and rodent feces can also trigger asthma attacks in children.

Enforcement

If there is a problem with insects, rodents, or other vermin, and the licensee/certificate holder can show they have scheduled an exterminator and are doing extra cleaning if necessary to keep the environment as safe as possible until that time, the Licenser will follow up to see if this is done by the scheduled date before citing it.

Fly strips are an acceptable way to control flying insects, as long as the strip is not accessible to the children.

Level 1B: If there is a beehive or a wasp nest that is four feet or lower and there is a child in care allergic to insect stings or bites.

Level 1D: If there is a beehive or a wasp nest that is higher than four feet and there is a child in care allergic to insect stings or bites.

Level 2D Noncompliance: If rodents are visibly present in the home, or rodent droppings are found in a food storage area, or in areas accessible to children.

Level 3D Noncompliance otherwise.

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Licensed Family 90-5:

- (3) The licensee shall maintain ceilings, walls, floor coverings, draperies, blinds, furniture, fixtures, and equipment in good repair to prevent injury to children.

Residential Certificate 50-5:

- (3) The certificate holder shall maintain ceilings, walls, floor coverings, draperies, blinds, furniture, fixtures, and equipment in good repair to prevent injury to children.

Rationale / Explanation

The physical structure where children spend each day can present safety concerns if it is not kept in good repair and maintained in a safe condition. For example, peeling paint in older homes may be ingested, floor surfaces in disrepair could cause falls and other injuries, broken windows could cause severe cuts. CFOC, pg. 273 Standard 5.231

The purpose of this rule is to prevent harm to children due to a poorly maintained home or broken equipment. For example, being cut on a sharp edge or point of a broken item, tripping over loose carpeting or tiles, falling from collapsing broken furniture, etc. CFOC, pg. 263 Standard 5.196; pg. 351 Standard 8.033; pg. 374 Standard 8.072

Enforcement

Level 1D Noncompliance Examples:

- *exposed accessible electrical wiring.*

Level 3D Noncompliance Examples:

- *exposed fiberglass insulation.*

Level 3D Noncompliance Examples:

- *damaged flooring that creates a tripping hazard. Damaged carpeting which does not create a tripping hazard is not a rule violation.*
- *wooden equipment and furnishings that have splinters and are used by children.*
- *cracks in equipment that could pinch a child's skin.*
- *torn draperies or broken blinds that a child could become entangled in.*
- *leaking plumbing other than a leaking faucet.*
- *heat vents that are accessible to children and are missing covers.*

Licensed Family 90-5:

- (4) The licensee shall ensure that entrances, exits, steps and outside walkways are maintained in a safe condition, and free of ice, snow, and other hazards.

Residential Certificate 50-5:

- (4) The certificate holder shall ensure that entrances, exits, steps and outside walkways are maintained in a safe condition, and free of ice, snow, and other hazards.

Rationale / Explanation

The purpose of this rule is to prevent injuries, including from falls, and to allow safe and timely exit from the

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building in case of emergency. CFOC, pg. 272 Standard 5.226; pg. 262 Standards 5.190, 5.192; pg. 194-195, Standard 5.019

Enforcement

The licensee/certificate holder will be allowed a reasonable amount of time during and immediately after a snowstorm to remove snow from outdoor exit areas, stairs, and walkways. In this case, this rule would not be cited unless there is a buildup of snow or ice on these surfaces.

Level 2D Noncompliance: If there is a buildup of ice in an area that must be used to enter and exit the home. If there is a missing step or unstable stairs that must be used to enter the home or access the playground.

Level 3D Noncompliance otherwise.